

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING,
LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE
AND INTERIOR DESIGN**

**In the Matter of
Steven Eldon Williams, Unlicensed**

**SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
AND
CEASE AND DESIST ORDER**

Board File No. 2013-0007

TO: Mr. Steven Eldon Williams
CIVE Design Group, LP
11200 Westheimer Road Suite 890
Houston, Texas 77042

The Minnesota Board of Architecture, Engineering, Land Surveying, Landscape Architecture, Geoscience and Interior Design ("Board") is authorized pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 214.10 (2010) and Minnesota Statutes section 326.111 (2010) to review complaints concerning the unauthorized practice of architecture, professional engineering, land surveying, landscape architecture, geoscience and interior design, and to take action pursuant to those statutes whenever appropriate.

The Board received a complaint concerning Steven Eldon Williams ("Respondent"). The Board's Complaint Committee ("Committee") reviewed the information. The parties have agreed that the matter may now be resolved by this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

IT IS HEREBY AGREED by and between Respondent and the Committee as follows:

1. Jurisdiction. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 326.111, subdivision

3 (2010), the Board is authorized to issue an order requiring an unlicensed person to cease and desist from practicing professional engineering in the State of Minnesota. Respondent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Board with respect to the matters referred to in this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order.

2. Facts. This Settlement Agreement is based upon the following facts:

- a. Respondent was first licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota on October 29, 2002.
- b. Respondent's State of Minnesota Professional Engineer's License expired on June 30, 2012.
- c. As of the date of this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order, Respondent has not reinstated/renewed his Minnesota Professional Engineer's license.
- d. In a letter dated September 13, 2012, Respondent provided copies of drawings on thirteen (13) Minnesota projects that he certified from July 1, 2012 to September 13, 2012. The projects were for Sprint and were for various types of towers.
- e. In this same September 13, 2012 letter, the Respondent states that after he was made aware of this violation all work in Minnesota ceased.

3. Violations. Respondent admits that the facts specified above constitute violations of Minnesota Statutes section 326.02, subdivisions 1 and 3 (2010) and are sufficient grounds for the action specified below. Specifically, it is alleged that the Respondent held himself out and practiced as a Professional Engineer when his license

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was lapsed/expired, from July 1, 2012 to September 13, 2012, on thirteen (13) Minnesota projects for Sprint.

4. Enforcement Action. Respondent and the Committee agree that the Board may issue an Order in accordance with the following terms:

a. Cease and Desist Order. Respondent shall cease and desist from holding himself out as a Professional Engineer and from practicing professional engineering in Minnesota until such time as he becomes licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of Minnesota.

b. Civil Penalty. Respondent shall pay a civil penalty of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to the Board. Respondent shall submit a cashier's check or money order for Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) to the Board within sixty (60) days of the date of the Board Order approving this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order.

5. Judicial Relief. If the Respondent violates paragraph 4 above, a district court of this state may, upon application of the Committee, enter an Order enjoining Respondent from such unauthorized practices, ordering Respondent to show cause why the required civil penalty has not been paid, and granting the Board its costs, reasonable attorney fees, and other appropriate relief.

6. Waiver of Respondent's Rights. For the purpose of this Settlement Agreement, Respondent waives all procedures and proceedings before the Board to which Respondent may be entitled under the Minnesota and United States constitutions, statutes, or the rules of the Board, including the right to dispute the allegations against Respondent and to dispute the appropriateness of discipline in a

contested case proceeding pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2010). Respondent agrees that upon the application of the Committee without notice to or an appearance by Respondent, the Board may issue an Order requiring the action specified in paragraph 4 herein. Respondent waives the right to any judicial review of this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order or the attached Board Order by appeal, writ or certiorari, or otherwise.

7. Collection. In accordance with Minnesota Statutes section 16D.17 (2010), in the event this order becomes final and Respondent does not comply with the condition in paragraph 4(b) above, Respondent agrees that the Board may file and enforce the unpaid portion of the civil penalty as a judgment without further notice or additional proceedings.

8. Board Rejection of Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order. In the event the Board in its discretion does not approve this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order, this Settlement Agreement shall be null and void and shall not be used for any purpose by either party hereto. If this Settlement Agreement is not approved and a contested case proceeding is initiated pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 14 (2010), Respondent agrees not to object to the Board's initiation of the proceeding and hearing the case on the basis that the Board has become disqualified due to its review and consideration of this Settlement Agreement and the record.

9. Record. The Settlement Agreement, related investigative reports and other documents shall constitute the entire record of the proceedings herein upon which the Order is based. The investigative reports, other documents, or summaries thereof may be filed with the Board with this Settlement Agreement.

10. Data Classification. Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order is classified as public data upon its issuance by the Board, Minnesota Statutes section 13.41, subdivision 5 (2010). All documents in the record shall maintain the data classification to which they are entitled under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 13 (2010). They shall not, to the extent they are not already public documents, become public merely because they are referenced herein. A summary of this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order will appear in the Board's newsletter. A summary will also be sent to the national discipline data bank pertaining to the practice of professional engineering.

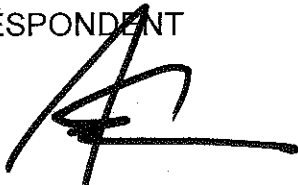
11. Unrelated Violations. This settlement shall not in any way or manner limit or affect the authority of the Board to proceed against Respondent by initiating a contested case hearing or by other appropriate means on the basis of any act, conduct, or admission of Respondent justifying disciplinary action which occurred before or after the date of this Settlement Agreement and which is not directly related to the specific facts and circumstances set forth herein.

12. Entire Agreement. Respondent has read, understood, and agrees to this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order and is freely and voluntarily signing it. The Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order contains the entire agreement between the parties. Respondent is not relying on any other agreement or representations of any kind, verbal or otherwise.

13. Counsel. Respondent is aware that he may choose to be represented by legal counsel in this matter. Respondent knowingly waived legal representation.

14. Service. If approved by the Board, a copy of this Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order shall be served personally or by first class mail on Respondent. The Settlement Agreement shall be effective and deemed issued when it is signed by the Chair of the Board.

RESPONDENT



Steven Eldon Williams

Dated: Nov. 30, 2012

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

BY: 

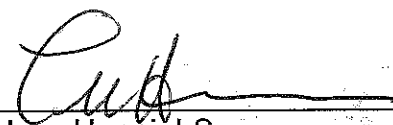
Bruce Johnson, PG
Complaint Committee Chair

Dated: 12/6, 2012

ORDER

Upon consideration of the foregoing Settlement Agreement and based upon all the files, records and proceedings herein, all terms of the Settlement Agreement are approved and hereby issued as an Order of this Board on this the 7th day of December, 2012.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF
ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING,
LAND SURVEYING, LANDSCAPE
ARCHITECTURE, GEOSCIENCE AND
INTERIOR DESIGN

By: 

Lisa Hanni, LS
Board Chair

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY MAIL

RE: In the Matter of Steven Eldon Williams, Unlicensed

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF RAMSEY)

Lynette DuFresne, being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

That at the City of St. Paul, County of Ramsey and State of Minnesota, on this the 10th day of December, 2012, she served the attached **Settlement Agreement and Cease and Desist Order**, by depositing in the United States mail at said city and state, a true and correct copy thereof, properly enveloped, with first class and certified postage prepaid, and addressed to:

Mr. Steven Eldon Williams
CIVE Design Group, LP
11200 Westheimer Road Suite 890
Houston, Texas 77042

CERTIFIED MAIL
Return Receipt Requested
7010 0780 0001 5886 4078



Lynette DuFresne

Subscribed and sworn to before me on
this the 10th day of December, 2012.



(Notary Public)

